



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

Mine F.1b
DOE/045/026
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July 28, 1986

TO: Lowell P. Braxton, Administrator
FROM: Richard V. Smith, Geologist RVS
RE: Field Inspection of American Consolidated Mining Company
Operations near Gold Hill and Clifton, Tooele County.

FILE SUMMARY

American Consolidated Mining Company (ACM) is listed as the operator for ACT/045/019 and DOE/045/026. File ACT/045/019 contains a MR-1 form that was received June 14, 1983. The MR-1 form was reviewed and a deficiency document was forwarded to the ACM on August 15, 1983. ACM has not responded to the deficiency document. Neither the MR-1 form or other documents explicitly identify the property to be encompassed by ACT/045/019.

File DOE/045/026 contains a MR-4 form that was received June 17, 1983 for the Yellow Hammer Claim located in SE 1/4 SE 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 24, T8S, R18W.

In addition, both DOE/045/026 and ACT/045/019 contain Bureau of Water Pollution Control approval letters for a test cyanide heap leach located in the NW 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 25, T8S, R18W. The approval letter includes the following conditions:

1. The test heap operation will be in service for approximately one year.
2. Following the termination of testing, all structures will be removed and the area reclaimed.

ACM operations in the Gold Hill/Clifton area have been field inspected by Division staff as listed below.

ACT/045/019

July 6, 1983
Sept. 6, 1985
Sept. 24, 1985

DOE/045/026

July 6, 1983
Dec. 11, 1984
Sept. 24, 1985

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Photographs from July 1983, December 1984 and September 1985 sequentially document ACM disturbance and operations at the Gold Hill Mill, Yellow Hammer Mine, Clifton Heap Leach site, and SW 1/4 Section 1, T8S, R18W.

FIELD INSPECTION July 17, 1986

The field inspection encompassed the following:

1. Gold Hill Mill Site - no new disturbance or activity was apparent. The site remains as potentially hazardous for toxic chemical contamination (see Field Inspection Memorandum dated September 6, 1985).
2. SW 1/4, Section 1, T8S, R18W - Site disturbance appears as photographed in September 1985.
3. SW 1/4, Section 12, T8S, R18W - Old mine tailings and portal approximately 1/2 mile east of Gold Hill Wash appears to be recently disturbed by backhoe and bulldozer. An open pit approximately 15 feet x 30 feet containing an unknown depth of water has been developed into the former mine pad. Portal areas have been excavated to create a 40-foot highwall. Claim ownership was not posted.
4. Yellow Hammer Mine - Surface disturbance estimated to encompass 10 acres. Equipment and facilities present on the site include:
 - (a) Front end loader with three cubic yard bucket;
 - (b) Four trailers;
 - (c) Operation shed; and
 - (d) Large fuel truck.

The pit highwall is approximately 150 feet long and 30 feet high. A shaft approximately 4 feet in diameter and unknown depth had been uncovered. The property was not posted and fencing/warning signs were not located above the highwall or around the shaft.

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5. Clifton Heap Leach Site - Site appears as photographed in September 1985 and November 1984. Only the white and gray trailers have been removed. The leach ponds contain a dark brown fluid. The leach pond linings are beginning to deteriorate and incompletely cover the pond freeboard. Assorted PVC pipe and trash have rolled into an adjacent drainage. The site appears to have been abandoned (see Memorandum dated November 7, 1985).

CONCLUSIONS

1. ACM is or has operated on at least four separate properties in the Gold Hill/Clifton area. These four areas appear to incorporate two properties that would fall within the declaration of small area exemption (Clifton Heap Leach and SW 1/4, Section 1, T8S, R18W) and two properties that would not (Gold Hill Mill and Yellow Hammer Mine).
2. ACM has not responded to the Division's review (dated August 5, 1983) of its MR-1 form.
3. ACM has not met the conditions of the Bureau of Water Pollution Control's approval letter for the Clifton Heap Leach.
4. The Division has received citizen complaints about the activities of ACM (see Memorandum to File dated December 13, 1984) and the operator has not received Division approval for mining activities in the Gold Hill/Clifton area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Division should contact the Bureau of Water Pollution Control and inform them of the status of the Clifton Heap Leach Site.

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2. The Division should contact ACM and request them to provide, within 30 days, a report of the status and location of all operations. The Division should note that the Yellow Hammer and Gold Hill Mill properties exceed the DOE limits and require separate MR-1 forms. The Clifton Heap Leach and unnamed site in SW 1/4, Section 1, T8S, R18W, requires separate MR-4 form submittals. Moreover, all other properties disturbed by ACM will require either a MR-1 form or a MR-4 form submittal.

RUS disc further w/ LRB 7-31:
OT Bur Water Poll will contact
opr & → "NOV" DOGA TO Support
Bur Water Pollution if required.

djh
cc: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
John Whitehead
9206R/29-31

728-86

